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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty. Docket: RIEL=1

In re Application of:)	Conf. No.: 4032
)	
Hans Werner RIEL et al)	Art Unit: 3683
)	
Appln. No.: 10/668,183)	Examiner: B. KING
)	
Filed: September 24, 2003)	Washington, D.C.
)	
For: ADJUSTABLE LENGTH)	October 6, 2004
COMPRESSION SPRING)	
)	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT [IDS]

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir :

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the filing date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

[X] 1. This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, as it is filed before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits or before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

[X] 2. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, this IDS includes a list (e.g., form PTO-1449) of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration

by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. A copy of each document listed is attached, except as explained below.

[X] A. Document AN is a U.S. patent and/or published application. As this is a U.S. application filed after June 30, 2003, or an entry into national stage under 35 U.S.C. §371 after June 30, 2003, the requirement to file copies of such U.S. patents or published applications has been waived. (MPEP §609IIIA(2)(A)).

[X] 3. Documents AP and AQ are not in the English language. In accordance with §1.98(a)(3), Applicant(s) states:

[X] An English translation of each document AP and AQ (or of the pertinent portions thereof), or a copy of each corresponding English-language patent or application, or English-language abstract (or claim) is enclosed. If a corresponding patent or application is being relied on, a line connecting the non-English-language document with its corresponding English-language document is drawn in the margin of the accompanying form PTO/SB/08a.

[X] 4. No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see reply to Comments 67 and 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

[X] 5. Other information being provided for the examiner's consideration follows:

European Search Report

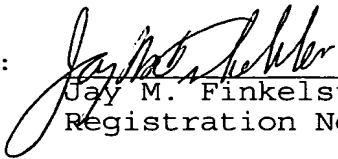
6. In accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or

attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant(s) reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

Respectfully submitted,

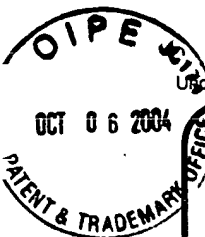
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/668,183
Filing Date	September 24, 2003
First Named Inventor	Hans Werner RIEL et al
Group Art Unit	3683
Examiner Name	B. KING
Attorney Docket Number	RIEL=1

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	AN	US-3,981,380	09-21-1976	ANDRE	
		US-			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Number Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
	AO	EP 0 421 470 A2	04-10-1991	STABILUS GMBH		
	AP	FR 1 112 300 A	03-12-1956	Fernand-Stanislas ALLINQUANT		ABS
	AQ	NL 7 201 101 A	07-31-1973	ARIE ADRIANUS DE KONING EN KORELIS KORSTIAAN KAREL DE KONING		ABS

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.